PRICE TWO CENTS.

CUBA'S FREEDOM ASSURED.

APAIN'S REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT MAKES THAT CERTAIN.

Whether It is to He Accomplished by Peace of War is for Spain to Decide-Spain's Reply Regarded by the Administration as Matirely Unantisfactory and by Congress as perfering on the Imperiment-The Reference to the Destruction of the Maine to Considered Little Less Than Brutal-The president to Refer the Whole Questien to Congress for Action in a Message That May Not He Completed Until Toosday Next.

WARRINGTON, April 1.-Cuban freedom in the near future has been assured by Spain's reply to the demands of President McHanley for the ending of the war and the granting of independence. That reply, which was delivered to the President at 11 o'clock last night, was a surprise both in Its tone and contents, and it apparently leaves nothing to be done but to turn the whole Cuban question ever to Congress, where it will be settled with little delay. Whether Cuban freedom is to be accomplished by peace or war is now entirely for Spain to decide. If she maintains her presentattitude, war, it seems, must follow as surely as the night the day. There is apparently only one way by which it can be avoided now, and that is the evacuation of Cuba by the Spanth Army and the voluntary relinquishment of the island to the Cubans.

There is no reason to believe, however, that Spain contemplates any such step. Her reply to the President's demand for the cessation of hostilities is brief and almost flippant in its tone, it is regarded by the President and his Cabinet as entirely unsatisfactory, and by Congress and by the Washington public as bordering on the impertinent. The full text of Minister Woodford's message giving Spain's answer is not yet known, but the substance of it is given in the following statement prepared by Assistant Secretary Day and issued to the public after the regular meeting of the Cabinet this morning:

"The following is an abstract from the telegram received from Gen. Woodford on the vening of March 31, 1898, on the general situation in Cuba. He informs the Government of the United States that Gen. Blanco has revoked the 'bando' relating to the reconcentrados in the western provinces of Cuba, which are understood to be the provinces of Matanzas, Santa Clara, Havana and Pinar del Rio; that the Spanish Government has placed at the disposal of the Governor-General the credit of 3,000,000 pesetas (\$600,000) to the end that the country people may return at once and with success to their labors.

The Spanish Government will accept whatever assistance to feed and succor the nece sitous that may be sent from the United States in accordance with the plan new in operation. It proposes to confide the preparation for an honorable and stable peace to the insular parliament, without whose concurrence the Spanish Government would not be able to arrive at the final result, it being understood that the powers reserved by the Constitution to the central Government

are not lessened or diminished. As the Cuban Chambers will not meet until May 4, the Spanish Government will not, on its part, object to a suspension of hostilities if saked for by the insurgents from the General-in-Chief, to whom it will belong to determine the auration and the condition of the suspension.

Only one important feature of Minister Woodford's message is untouched in this statement which, contrary to general opinion, is very brief, being less than twice as long as the statement ssion is the reference made by the Spanish Government to the "incident" of the destruction of the Maine and the report of the Naval Court of Inquiry submitted to Congress last Monday. Why the President neglected to submit this part of the message to the public is not known, but proba bly he felt that public feeling was already sufficleatly inflamed against Spain, and that it would be wiser, for more reasons than one, to withhold the fact that the Spanish Government's reference to what has been the active eause in bringing the controversy with Spain to a head is little less than insulting. more than fifty words of Spain's reply is devoted to that part of the President's cablegram transmitting a copy of the report of the Naval Court. More time is coolly asked in which to make reply to the President's suggestion that perhaps some notice should be taken of the fact that the Naval Court found that the Maine had been blown up by a submarine mine. No regret is expressed, no apology is offered, but the blowing up of the ship is treated merely as an unin portant item in the indictment.

Spain's reply, indeed, is no reply at all, for it simply says what the Spanish Government proposes to do, instead of stating whether will do what this Government says must be done. The proposition for delay May was not seriously considered by the Cabinet for a moment. Almost without exception the President's advisers decided, the moment the reading of Minister Woodford's meswas completed, that it ended all hope of a peaceful settlement of the longstanding controversy, and that the task of making the final accounting with Spain should b turned over to Congress, as was agreed when the warlike spirit of the Senators and Representatives became manifest the day after the

report of the naval court was published, President McKinley's programme of action, now that Spain has made her decision, has not yet been finally decided. It is said on good authority that, notwithstanding the apparent hopelessness of avoiding war with Sp still thinks there is a shadow of a chance for securing Cuban independence without war, and it is understood that one member of the Cabinet, Mr. Gage, is inclined agree with him. Just what plans the President has in mind for accomplishing this result are not known. At the second Cabinet session of the day, held at 5 o'clock this afternoon, the whole situation was fully talked ever, and the meeting adjourned without having reached a conclusion as to what the next step

should be. Whatever further representation the President may make to Spain, however, if any, will not alter his purpose to send a message to Congress as soon as he can write it, reviewing the history of the diplomatic negotiations with the Spanish Government since they were commenced in the Administration of his predecessor and bringing them down to the moment- when he signs the message. To that task he has al ready set himself, but the character of his recommendations to Congress has not been fully decided on. It has been suggested by some of those who have consulted with the President to-day that he may answer Spain's last message by sending an ultimatum answer able in twenty-four hours and to attach to the message to Congress Spain's answer. If this is not done it will probably be decided to totally Ignore to-day's message from Minister Woodford. That course would be a sufficient answer

To-night the President is at the White House elaborate and important message that he to-merrow's Brooklyn Eagle. A great paper for next is shown in the fact that Congress party in the wheelmer. Don't rail to order it.—dev.

State Department and one or two Cabinet officials dropped in for a moment's conversation, but the leaders of the Senate and House upon whom he has depended so much during the important transactions of the week, took a brief respite and remained away from the White House to-night. To-mor row, however, further consultations will be held with the Speaker and leading men of the House

The President is almost worn out by the dis ractions and exacting duties and the strain of the present week but those who have talked with him to-day say that, having reached the be gining of the end of the long controversy, he is facing the result with calmness and hopefulness. To-day was the busiest and most aborious one of the week. The President was in his office by 9 o'clock, and at 11 the Cabinet met. In the meshtime he attended to some routine business and consulted with a score or more of distinguished callers. As soon as Spain's reply had been read to the Cabinet the task of preparing for possible war was begun, and when the first step called forth by the coming of the Spanish torpedo flotilla had been arranged public announcement made of the diplomatic WAS tion as it stands. Then the question of the legislative programme was taken up, and Speaker Reed, who has stood by the President as loyally and as earnestly as a man could, was sent for. Mr. Reed looms up as one of the big, strong men of the hour. He was opposed to intervention in Cuban affairs and is opposed to war. But if it is to come he will lead the party in the House of Representatives in hearty support of the President.

Then the rush of important visitors began again, and at 4 o'clock the President snatched an hour for his daily drive to get a breath of fresh air. Mrs. McKinley accompanied him today. At 5 o'clock the Cabinet met for the second session of the day. It was almost dinner time when the official conference broke up, and after dinner the President was at his deak again mapping out the message which would be the most important one of this Administration, and more portentous, indeed, than that of any President since the days of Abraham Lincoln. Shortly after 11 o'clock the President retired to get a good night's rest before facing to-morrow's numerous tasks.

The President has led some of those who talked with him to-day to believe that he has good and sufficient reason to hope that there is yet a chance for a settlement with Spain on the basis of diplomatic negotiations If so, he has kept the information to himself, for his callers are unable to ascertain the cause of the faith that is in him. A careful reading of the President's statement, based on Minister Woodford's message, fails to reveal that it has a double meaning, or that it means anything but an almost scornful reply to the representations of this Government.

Speaker Reed was called in consultation at the second Cabinet meeting to-day, his counsel being desired in arranging for the legislative programme that will follow the announcement of the President's message. When the arder of Conress for the immediate settlement of the Cuban question was cooled by the request of the President that time be given him to make one last appeal to Spain, the assurance was given that the matter would be submitted to them for settlement not later than Monday. It is now improbable, however, that the message will be sent in on that day, simply for the reason that the President will not be physically able to complete it. One of those at to-day's

Cabinet meeting said: "Why, if the President should begin to write now and not stop until next Monday morning at 12 o'clock he would not be able to put in all the things that he intends to say in making up the record on which Congress may determine to de-

It may be Tuesday, or perhaps Wednesday, therefore, when the President ends his task, but Congress will be patient and wait, for they have decided new to stand loyally by him, in view of the fact that he has agreed to temporize no longer with Spain. The President now fully realizes that the desire of the people, as expressed by their representatives in Congress for an immediate, complete, and satisfactory settlement with Spain, grows chiefly out of their desire to avenge the death of the sailors of the Maine.

The legislative programme to follow the submission of the President's message to Congress is a question of the utmost importance, but nothing definite has yet been arranged. Both houses have adjourned until Monday, and the days intervening until the message is submitted will be spent in consulta-tion among the leaders. In the preliminary discussion of the plans the chief aim is to make certain that Congress will act

one man in supporting the President. utmost importance that there shall be no war faction and no peace faction, but that all parties in Congress, and all Congressmen individually shall constitute a war party just as soon as it is publicly admitted that war is the only outome of the situation.

Speaker Reed and his Republican Heutenants and the leaders of Democratic sen-timent in the House and the perma-nent steering committee of the Senate will consult together before it is decided which, if any, of the various propositions now pending shall be agreed upon. These leaders will n a sense map out the work of the Foreign Affairs Committee, but it has not yet been arranged even whether one house shall wait for the other to act or whether they shall proceed separately, leaving the final arrangement to be perfected by a conference committee of the two houses. The consensus of opinion appears to be that a declaration of war will be made, but those of the leaders who have talked among themselves and know the President's views are inclined to think that it would be wiser to pass a resolution requesting the President to recognize the independence of Cuba and authorizing the employment of the armed forces of the Government if necessary. One argument in favor of this legislative plan that it would give Spain one more chance to give up Cuba without a war. She

could quietly evacuate the islands and withdraw her Government, leaving the Cubans free. But whatever is done, it is understood now among those who know the necessities the situation that no proposition shall be reported immediately after the President's message is submitted, but that a few days shall be allowed to elapse in order to let the President more fully perfect his plans. Congress will therefore not finally dispose of the question in any event before the latter part of

next week. In the executive session of the Senate to-day strong opposition developed to the pur-chase of the Danish West India Islands, as recommended by the Foreign Relations chase of the by the Foreign Relations as recommended by the Foreign Relations Committee, and the debate branched off into a general discussion about Spain's reply to the report of the Naval Court on the blowing up of the Maine and the prespects of war. Judging from the tone of the remarks it is evident that the feeling in the Senate is such as to encourage the President's friends to believe that when the hour arrives for taking action that will make war unavoidable the Executive will find himself supported patriotically, loyally, and enthusiastically by the entire Senate.

The appearance of Secretary Aiger at the Senate this afternoon, following closely the momentus meeting of the Cabinst, gave rise to all sorts of rumores as to his probable mission and greatly increased the excitement caused by the state ment issued by the President. This as quickly subsided, however, when the Secretary of War announced the pescable intent of his visitancerly in accordance with a previous engagement, to take Vice-Fresident Hobart out for a drive.

All Whe Esse Should Steed

week, Assistant Secretaries Day and Adee of the SPAIN'S TORPEDO FLEET.

NAVAL STRATEGY BOARD CONSIDER ITS COMING A HOSTILE ACT.

They Call on the President and Request Him to Order the Flying Squadron to Intercept It Before It is Joined by the Vicenya and Oquendo-He Replied That That Would Boan Act of War and Ha Could Not Go So Par Yet.

WARHINGTON, April 1 .- An unusual and somewhat dramatic incident of the first session of the Cabinet to-day was the appearance in the Cabinet room of three prominent naval officers, all detailed for duty at the Navy Department, who came to make an appeal for action toward preventing the Spanish torpede boat flotilla from making a junction with the armored cruisers Vincaya and Oquendo before their arrival in West Indian waters. The officers were Capt. A. S. Crownin-shield, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation; Capt. A. L. Barker, Special Aide to the Secretary of the Navy, and Commander Richardson Clover, Chief of the Naval Intelligence Office. Capt. Crowninshield and Commander Clover con with Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, the Naval Strategy Board. Capt. Barker is the navy's representative on the Joint Military and Naval Board on Defence. These three men, with Mr. Roosevelt, have made most of the arrangements for an emergency under the direction o the Navy Department. Nearly all the preparatory measures have been on the recommendations of the Strategy Board. Their visit to the White House during the continuance of the Cabinet session was due to the receipt of official information that the Vircaya and Oquendo had left Havana. While the destination of the two armorelads had not been ascertained by the person sending the news, the officials of the Navy Department had no doubt that the Spanish ships had started to meet the powerful torpedo flotilla which is supposed to be on its way to Porto Rico. Whether the junction will be made in Porto Rico waters or at sea there is no means of ascertaining here.

A conference between the members of the Strategy Board and Capt. Barker was held immediately, and it was decided that the three officers mentioned should go to the Wnite House and explain to the President and the Cabinet, through Secretary Long, how serious a blow would be given to the United States if the Vizcaya and the Oquendo man aged to join forces with the torpedo flotilla. When the views of the Strategy Board on the subject were presented to the President and his advisors, there was considerable concern manifested. It was represented that the flotilla in its present condition would be at the mercy of Commodore Schley's flying squadron, but if augumented by the two armored cruisers, it could hope to make an effective resistance against an offensive force or inflict great damage on the squadrons at Key

West or Hampton Hoads. People who saw and read about the Viscaya when she was in New York harbor know what a magnificent vessel she is. She is a sister of the Oquendo. Another Spanish vessel of the same type and built on similar plans is the Infanta Maria Teresa, which reached Cadiz yesterday with the new and formidable armored oruiser Cristobal Colon to be prepared for immediate service. The Oquendo (or Almirente Oquendo, to give her full name), the Vincaya and the Maria Teresa are built of steel, have twin screws, displace 6,800 tons, and can make 20.2 knots under forced draft. They have side armor of from ten to twelve inches, and a deck protection of steel tapering from three to two inches. Their biggest guns are of 11-inch calibre. Each carries 484 officers and men. All three vessels were built at Bilbao, the Maria Teresa in 1890 and the others in 1891. Spain has no petter ships than these for general use in war. They have not quite so great a displacement as the Brooklyn, the flagship of the flying squad ron, which displaces 9,163 tons, but heavier armor on the sides and less for deck protection and on the barbettes. The Brooklyn, while not carrying such big guns as the Vizcaya and her class, has more of the rifles are 8-inch and she has eight of them. The Brooklyn's speed is about the same as that of any of the Spanish ships,

A number of questions were asked Capt. Crowninshield and his brother officers while they were at the White House. They had to tell just how the augmented Spanish flotilla would compare with the vessels of the flying squadron, and what advantage would be gained by intercepting the flotilla before it fell in with the Vizcaya and her sister ship. The naval officers wanted action taken at once to put Commodore Schley's vessels in better position to move against the flotills. It is supposed that they advocated sending the flying equadron to St. Thomas, to be in a more advantageous situation to strike when the word was given, but the three navy men got no encouragement. They were told that to send out the flying squadron to intercept the flotilla would be an act of war, and the President was not willing to go that far, even in the present critical condition caused by the character of Spain's answer.

Meanwhile, however, the flying squadron being propared for instant departure. Orders have been given to Commodore Schley which tell him what course to pursue when the Navy Department orders him to proceed to sea. His squadron at Hampton Roads now consists the armored cruiser Brooklyn, the battleship Massachusetta, and the cruiser Columbia. The cruiser Minneapolis will probably join the other ships to-mor-row morning. The battleship Texas is under repairs at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and cannot rejoin the squadron until early next week. It would take about four days for the vessels to reach Porto Rico. The Brooklyn, Columbia and Minneapolis, unaccompanied by the slower but more powerful Massachusetts and Texas, could get there in three days. If orders are not sent for the squadron to move within the next day or two, the junction of the Vizcaya and the Oquendo with the flotilla cannot be prevented. This was urged today by Capt. Grewinshield, Capt. Barker, and Commander Clover as a reason for sending out the flying aquadron at once. Some too late. The flotilia is expected to reach Porto Rico on April 7. The Viscaya and the Oquendo ought to be able to pick up the torpedo craft about the 3d er 4th inst., as ships can move nearly twice as fast as the flotilis, which is obliged to coal at sea nearly every day from the converted merchantman, City of Cadis, the convoy of the destroyers and their smaller The first segment of the large auxiliary fleet,

comprising yachts, tugs, and other craft, now being hurriedly prepared for service in southern waters, will leave New York next Thursday and proceed direct to Key West to assist the seven torpedo boats there in performing outpost duty for the protection of the heavier vessels, and especially those lying at anchor well out to sea. Two tugs have been reported in readiness to the Navy Department, and the remainder, numbering nine, are being pushed along, so that the fictilla may get away certainly by the time mentioned. The Construction Bureau, under which the work of armoring and arming has been placed, has received a report from the navy yard setting forth in detail the precise condition of each vessel and the time necessary to get it ready for actual service. Extra forces of employees have been ordered to assist in the labor on the tugs, and every effort is to be made to get them all away so as to be at Key West within a few days after the Spanish torpedo fiotilla reaches Porto Rico. The apprehension

Sampson, commanding the Key West squad-ron, is now acting under orders of the department in maintaining close watch with searchlights and patrol boats each night. Guns for the tugs are on hand at the New York Navy Yard, the plates to protect the yachts are being sent forward rapidly, and by the time the conversion takes place the officers

and crows will be on hand.

It is well understood by the officials that, if it becomes necessary to form a cordon around the fleet with the tugs and other smaller craft, the best strategy must be employed to prevent a number of the tugs being sunk, owing to their reduced speed compared to the fleet torpedo craft of Spain and awkwardness in handling. But as each is mounted with from two to four rapid-fire guns they would materially assist the torpedo boats in keeping at a distance the best boat of the Spanish fittilla. Five yachts of greater speed and considerable tonnage, undergoing conversion also at New York, are rapidly advancing toward completion, and from last reports it is reckoned that they should be ready for departure in ten days at the outside. The tugs have no steel protection and can be made ready much quicker, but the delay in the larger vessels is due to the great care ecessary in girdling the thin plates of the yachts with a thickness of another inch of protection. None of them is to carry guns heavier than six-pounders, and all of this calibre that can be advantageously mounted will be put on. Four or six inch rifles are to be mounted on the forecastle of each yacht, and along the broadside a large battery of rapid fire and machine guns, all of which are ready. Commander Elmer will be in charge of the navy's tug flotilla on the way

A report was current in Washington to-day that the Spanish torpede fictills had reached Porto Rico. The correspondent of THE SUN was unable to confirm it. Navy Department officials do not expect the figtilla to reach Porto Rico much before the 5th.

SPANISH SHIPS FOR BAYANA. Two Big Supply Steamships and a Smaller On

That Have failed Becently. Special Cable Desputches to THE SUS. SATANDER, March 31 .- Satled, steamship Vivina, Spanish, Capt, Luzarraga, Havana. Valencia, March 28.—Salled, steamship

Gran Antilla, Spanish, Capt. Bayons, for Havana. Vigo, March 22.—Salled, steamship Riojano, Spanish, Capt. Guerrica, for Havana,

These ships have heretofore taken supplies to the Spanish Army in Cuba. They are doubtless laden with more stores and may have troops also. The Riojano is a large English-built freighter of 4.909 tons. She sailed from Liverpool for Santander on March 12. The Gran Antilla measures 3,537 tons, and is also British built. Her original port of departure in Spain was Barcolona, whence she sailed on March 24. The Vivina is a smaller vessel. She sailed from Pensacols on March 1, arrived at Liverpool on March 21. and sailed thence for Santander on

THE NATIONAL GUARD READY. 500 New Enlistments-Uniforms and Tents to

Se Purchased ALBANY, April 1.—Adjt.-Gen. Tillingbast was at his office all of the day looking into the im-mediate needs of the National Guard in the event of their being called into service. During the past few weeks the spirit of patriotism which has prevaded all classes throughout the State has resulted in the enlistment of some 500 additional guardsmen, nearly all organizati reporting numerous applicants. As a result the Adjutant-General determined to-day to purchase over 500 additional uniforms, which will cost about \$17,000. He also determined to purchase 600 tents for field service, which will cost

\$12,000. TROY, April 1 .- Major James H, Lloyd, who was appointed to command the Thirteenth Battallon, received his commission to-day. He is the first of the Majors of the new battalions in the State to be appointed and receive a commission. He thus is honored by being the ranking officer of the new Majors. Major Lloyd said today that the National Guard of Troy and Cohoes was ready to take the train for the field of action at a half hour's notice. He said everything was held in readiness and there were arrangements with leading grocers in the city whereby a three days' supply of food would be ready a short notice. He said the experience of the troops at Buffalo during the railroad strike was valuable. Since that time the Commissary Department had been placed on a more practical basis. Major Lloyd said ammunition was ready

REED SEES THE PRESIDENT. Contradictors Reports of the Result of Their

Interview. WASHINGTON, April 1.—Speaker Reed had two long talks at the White House with President KcKinley to-day. One of the results of these talks to-night is that it is reported that Speaker Reed informed the President that he had done his full duty in standing by the President's policy, but, inasmuch as all diplomatio relations with Spain had apparently come to an unsatisfactory end, he, the Speaker, should not be asked to stand further in the way of the House, which was evidently determined upon decisive action against Spain. A friend of President McKinley, who said that he was acquainted with what occurred between the President and the

Speaker, denied this. He said: "On the contrary the Speaker informed the President that a more conservative tone was apparent in the House, that the full responsibilities for anything that portended war were beginning to be fully appreciated, where before there had been but fervor approaching almos clamor. The Speaker then assured the President that he did not believe it would be necessary for him to take a stand to prevent an unwise outbreak.

The President's message, it was added, will be of such a character as to convince the House that the Administration's policy was the policy of the sober-minded and conservative people.

THE BINEWS OF WAR ceretary Gage Confers with Bankers as to the

Seat Means of Raising Funds. WASHINGTON, April 1.-Secretary Gage began to-day a series of conferences with bankers, Eastern and Western, to ascertain the best practical means for raising war funds. The Secretary of the Treasury has been a strong peace man and he does not believe that his conferences with the bankers should be taken too seriously, and yet Mr. Gage is determined to be prepared to meet all emergencies. In his talks with the bankers he has not outlined any plan of his own for raising war funds. He has, on the contrary, questioned and cross-questioned the bankers in his efforts to obtain their best practical ideas on the subject. Some of the Secretary's visitors have assured him positively that a popular loan, say first of \$50,000,000 or \$100,000,000 of bonds, ranging from \$100 to \$500, would doubtless meet with hearty cooperation from the people all over the country. Nothing definite has been decided, for the reason that there is as yet no possible demand for such an extrementer. Secretary Gage, however, is to continue his talks with the bank-ers from time to time, as he proposes to be in a position to meet any emergency that may arise.

Offers His Services to the Government Frank C. Mason, superintendent of the police telegraph bureau in Brooklyn, has written to Gen. Merritt offering his services to the Government in case of war. He is an expert Morse

MORE AUXILIARY SHIPS.

SIX WERE PRACTICALLY ADDED TO THE NAVY YESTERDAY.

They Include the Cromwell Line Steamshi Crests, the Yachts Jesephine and for ereign, and Three Steam Colliers-All to Be Refitted and Join the Atlantic Squadron.

WASHINGTON, April 1 .- There was vim and energy injected into the naval emergency preparations after the first Cabinet meeting to-day. When Secretary Long returned to the Navy Department, after hearing the Spanish answer read and discussed, he gave orders which were carried into effect with alacrity.

No less than six vessels for the naval service were bought or arrangements for their purchase by the Government made before the department closed for the day, and all will be paid for out o

the \$50,000,000 emergency fund.

The craft which the Government will add to its naval list by the action taken to-day are three steam colliers, one ocean steamship, and two fine yachts. Two of them have been already secured, two more are now practically in the possession of the Government, and the others will be impressed to morrow. Arrangements for the transfer of all of them to the Federal authorities have

The new additions to the effective naval force are the Cromwell Line steamship Creole, the steam yachts Josephine and Sovereign, the steam collier Saturn, and two of the best col-Here which run out of New York.

The Creole is now on her way to New York with a cargo. She is to be used as an ambulance ship, and immediately after her arrival at New York will be taken in charge by the Government and sent to Newport News. Va., to be fitted at the big shipbuilding plant there for hospital purposes. She is due to reach New York on Monday.

Dr. Van Reypen, the Surgeon-General of the Navy, selected the Creole, and her refitting will take place under his direction.

Wards will be arranged and light ports cut, so that wounded sailors will have the most cheerful surroundings. The Creole, when converted, will hoist the flag of the Red Cross lociety and proceed to Key West for service with Capt, Sampson's fleet.

Capt. E. V. Gager, Commodore of the Cromwell line fleet, has applied for her command. The orders to buy colliers were partly the result of the visit to the White House during he Cabinet meeting to-day of the members of the Naval Strategy Board, who saw Secretary Long and the President and obtained authority to purchase these desirable vessels immediately. The purchase of the Saturn was consummated this afternoon by the Naval Auxiliary Board in New York. The Saturn hails from Bo s now in New York. She is one of the finest vessels of her kind. Both the other colliers have New York as their home port. Their names could not be ascertained at the Navy Department to-day, but the Auxiliary Board reported that they were the best in the United States. One collier will probably go with the flying

squadron and two to Capt. Sampson's formida

The Josephine belongs to P. B. Widener of Philadelphia, the street railway magnate. She has a gross tonnage of 545.59, is 191.8 feet long. 28.3 feet in breadth, and 15.3 feet deep. She was built in 1896 at Elizabeth, N. J., and hails from Philadelphia. She was recently rebuilt to suit Mr. Widener's ideas by Harlan & Hollingsworth of Wilmington, Del. It was rumored this evening that Lieut, Alexander Sharp, Jr., naval aide to Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, will command her. The Sovereign is a steam yacht of 627.60 gross ons, 228.5 feet long. 27.8 feet broad, and 16.7 feet deep. She was also built in 1896, at Brooklyn, and her papers are signed by the Collector of the Port of New York. Both these yachts will be fitted as auxiliary torpedo gunboats and will be assigned to picket duty with one of the Atlantic coast irons. The Josephine will go to the League sland Navy Yard for conversion into a war vessel. All the other boats purchased, with the exception of the Creole, will be sent to Brooklyn Navy yard for refitting. The Creole will carry arms and will be under the protection of the Red Cross. The colliers will each have one small rapid-fire gun. The yachts will be equipped with the best battery available for vessels of

their size and type.

There was considerable worry shown by the naval officials this afternoon over the fact that the new cruiser Albany, purchased from Brazil. could not be made ready in time for service with the American naval forces in home waters if war came very soon. The Albany is now at Newcastle on the Tyne. She has been formally turned over to the United States, and there would probably be no objection by the British Government to allow ing her to leave England after hostilities had begun, but it is the belief of the Navy Department that her passage across the Atlantic would be attended by too many risks. The probability of war has also put an end to the hopes of the Government that warships can be obtained in Italy. Commander Brownso may be recalled from Rome, where he is negetiating with the Italian Minister of Marine, and placed in command of an auxiliary cruiser.

Capt. Sampson, commanding the Key West quadron, telegraphed the Navy Department this afternoon that he would at once have the Indiana, Iowa, New York, Marblehead and Detroit scraped by divers instead of sending them o dry dock for that purpose. All these ships have been reduced in speed through foul growths along their keels. It would be exceedingly risky to withdraw them from the equadron and the divers will endeavor to perform the work which could be more effectively done in dry docks. Each ship has been supplied with a duplicate set of diving apparatus, so there will be no lack of working material.

Chief Constructor Hichborn again urged on the Navy Department to-day that the American liners St. Paul and St. Louis be impressed at once. It will take at least two weeks to convert them into auxiliary ornisers, and Chief Hichborn contended that it was better to tart the work without further delay. There is some opposition to his recommendation, however, in the Board of Naval Bureau Chiefs. Capt. O'Neill, the Chief of Ord-nance, and Commander Bradford, the Chief of the Equipment Bureau, are against it, while it is favored by Assistant Secretary Roose welt and Capt. Crowninshield, Chief of the Navigation Bureau. The President does not want to expend the large sum of money necessary to purchase these big steam-ships, and has not yet consented to their impressment. Both these vessel would be sent to the flying squadron. Notification has been given by the Navy Department to several steamship lines that their vessels may be needed.

AUTONOMIST CABINET PROTESTS.

a Cable Bespatch to President McKintey De claring That Autonomy Is a Success. HAVANA, April 1.-The Cuban autonomist Cabinet has sent a cable despatch to President

McKinley protesting against the aspersions cast by American politicians upon autonomy, which, the Cabinet declares, is a success, being supported by a majority of the Cubans. MADRID, April 1 .- The appeal of the Cuban autonomists to President McKinley, the text of

which has been cabled here, is much commented upon in Madrid. Long Island B. R. New Cars. New Mard Coni engines. Roadway offed. Entire system ba

WARSHIPS LEAVE HAVANA.

Viscoya and Oquendo Sall--Protection for

HAVANA, April 1,-When the Viscaya and Almirante Oquendo sailed to-day at 5 o'clock an immense and enthusiastic Spanish crowd gathered on the wharves and around the bay to chees

Both warships sailed in a northeasterly direct tion. Their destination is still kept a mystery here. The Spanish people were wild with joy at seeing them sail.

The warships go under command of Capt Louis Pastor.

The Spanish gunboat Vicente Yafies Pinzon left Havana last night and returned to-day to

All the batteries and the forts are engaged in

cannon practice. The situation here is very critical. Captain

General Blanc) told the Colonels of the volunteers that the American citizens here should be protected against any attempt to attack them or the American Consulate. The indignation of the mob against the United States grows every minute. In view of the situa-

tion Gen. Blanco has summoned to the palace a Junta of all the authorities, among whom are the Governor of Havana, the Autonomist Cabinet, the most important officials, and the Bishop. The Junta will not leave the Palace until the

gravity of the situation is over. Gen. Blanco says that if President McKinley loes not back down war seems inevitable.

A despatch from Madrid to Gen. Blanco says that the note of President McKinley to Spain was so grave that the Government has no authority to discuss it, but must refer it to the Cortes.

COMMENTS OF LONDON PAPERS. War Regarded as Probable-Spain Declared to He in an Impossible Position.

Secolal Cable Despatch to THE SUR. LONDON, April 2.- The morning papers again devote considerable space to editorial comments on the Spanish-American situation. They regard the prospect of averting war as extremely

shadowy. The Standard considers Spain's position impossible, and says that the Queen Regent, the Government, and the people will show the noblest heroism, highest patriotism, and finest sense of dignity by preferring an honorable peace to an inevitably disastrous war.

The Daily News says it hopes that even at the eleventh hour some way will be found of redressing Cuban wrongs through the intervention of the United States, without setting aside the rights of Spain too uncerem The Pope, it adds, could not crown his life in a more peneficent way than by finding the golden bridge over which Spain may retreat from an mpossible position.

The Chronicle is impressed by the terrible responsibility resting on each Government, but ays it has no doubt that the United States have the highest claim to the sympathies of civilization. Their action may be quixotic, but it is unselfish, courageous, and actuated by motives of The Daily Graphic says that nothing now re-

mains but to fight. War, of course, is terrible, but is no mere terrible than the long-draw-nous tragedy of Spanish domination in Oubs. Few reasonable people doubt that the United States are wise in taking their present attitude.

The Daily Mail says that every lover of lib-

erty will wish that the war will be as short as it is sure to be decisive. It adds: "It is a more commonplace to say how great is Great Britain's anylety for America's success."

MERRITT INSPECTS FORT HANCOCK And Reports in Cipher to Washington on Some Changes to Be Made.

Major-Gen. Wesley Merritt, Commander of ertment of the East, and several mem bers of his staff inspected yesterday the fortifinations at Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook, The following officers accompanied Gen. Merritt: Lieuts. H. C. Hale, L. H. Strother and T. B. Wott, aldes-de-camp; Lieut,-Col, John W. Clous. Judge Advocate; Col. John I. Rodgers, artillery inspector; Capt. James Allen, signal officer, and Lieuts, A. S. Cummings and Charles

F. Parker. The party left Governor's Island at 9:30 o'clock in the morning on board the Govern-ment launch Gen, Thayer. They returned hortly before 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Gen. Merritt had nothing to say for publication about the inspection. Before 10 o'clock last night, however, the Secretary of War had received Gen. Merritt's report and from it earned the exact condition of Fort Hancock. While the fortifications in general met Gen Merritt's approval, it was learned last night that he found it necessary to call attention in his report to certain changes that should be made immediately. The report was telegraphed to Washington in cipher.

INCITED TO ATTACK AMERICANS. Violence Urged by a Spanish Newspaper is Mexico-Excitement at Tampico

CITY OF MEXICO, April 1.-The daily paper El Correo Espanola, the organ of the Spaniards of Mexico published here, is doing its utmost to incite the Spaniards to violence toward Americans in Mexico. Its columns teem with the wildest charges against Americans, and in every issue slanders against the American Congress and President McKinley are printed.

Tampico, Mexico, April 1 .- A conflict between Americans and Spaniards of this city may occur at any time. The war spirit is running and men of both countries are ready to fight it out among themselves on the slightest provocation. The Mexican authorities are using every effort to preserve order, and no groups of citizens of either country are allowed to stand on the streets.

FRENCH CALL FOR ARBITRATION. An Appeal to Senor Gullon and Secretary Sherman by a French Society.

Exectal Cable Pespatch to THE BUS. PARIS, April 1 .- The French Arbitration Socisty has written to Senor Gullon, the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. John Sherman, the American Socretary of State, appealing to them in the name of justice and humanity to intrust the settlement of the Cuban question of friendly powers or, preferably, to arbitration. The letter remarks that both the United States and Spain encouraged the society's efforts in the ast.

MONEY FOR SPAIN FROM MEXICO. More Than \$400,000 Contributed by Spantard in the Last Four Days.

CITY OF MEXICO, April 1 .- More than \$800. 000 has been contributed during the past four days by Spaniards in Mexico toward a patriotic fund in behalf of Span. The following Spanlards of this city have each contributed \$20,000 in cash: Autonio Bassgoiti, Norega Hermanos, Ilicardo Sainz, Telesforo Garcia, José Sanchez, Ramos and Faustino Martinez.

THAT PERFORMANCE AT MADRID. The Receipts Reduced from \$100,000 to \$150,000 by a Mavana Despatch.

HAVANA. April 1.-The gala performance a the Royal Opera in Madrid for the benefit of the navy produced \$180,000 according to an efficial despatch.

A despatch from Madrid yesterday said that the performance had produced \$700,000.

SPAIN'S WORK OF DEFENCE.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR AT HOME AND IN HER COLONIES.

The Transatiantie Company's Floot Offered-State of the Coast Defenses-Troops for the Canaries and North Africa.-A National Subscription to Buy Warships Proposed.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUR. Madrid, April 1 .- The Spanish Transatiantic Company, which owns many vessels, has placed its entire fleet at the disposal of the Government. Evpariment has shown that these yes sels can be turned into cruisers in a few weeks.

The coast defences of the peninsula have re-ceived the particular attention of the Government. Work in the direction of perfecting them has been carried on ever since the seisure of the American schooner Competitor in Cuban waters many months ago. At that time these defences were specially inspected, and the plans then formulated have since been carried out, with the result that they are now declared to be off-

The movements of troops to the colonies include the despatching of two battalions of infantry, a battalion of engineers, half a battalion of artillery, and a regiment of marines to th Canary Islands, and a regiment of marines and additional artillerymen and infantry to Ports Rico, The garrisons in the Spanish possessions in North Africa have also been reinforced, but no details of the movements in this direction are made public.

A standing army in the Philippine Islands, consisting of 15,000 Spaniards and 15,000 na-

tives, will be maintained. A national subscription is proposed for the purchase or construction of warships. It is the plan to have every Spaniard who has sufficient ncome to contribute a minimum sum of 1,000 pesetas. It is calculated that there are enough Spaniards who will be able to contribute this amount to make a grand total of nearly \$50,-

EUROPE'S ATTITUDE. Spain Not Likely to Make Any Formal Appeal

Special Cable Despatch to Tan Sun. London, April 1 .- Conflicting reports from Madrid during the day caused great confusion of opinion in the European capitals regarding the climax of the Spanish-American crisis. Paris was the first to learn definitely that the Spanish reply to the demands of the United States was unfavorable and that war was almost certain. The Bourse, for the first time, was con vinced that the situation was hopeless, and Spanish securities were thrown on the market in a reckless fashion which almost amounted to

a pania, London had discounted war more thoroughly, so the effect of the news was much less marke

Diplomatic circles are not seriously disturbed in London or on the Continent, for it has been realized for several days that a rupture was practically inevitable. It is not expected that Spain will make anyformal appeal, to the powers, because all her overtures, and she has made several recently, have not met with a single favorable response. It is not considered proba-ble that she will invite a public rebuff by seeking officially what has been informally refused. European sympathies may be described in a single sentence. Great Britain distinctly and sincerely supports the United States, Russia is absolutely indifferent, and France, Germany, Austria and Italy are on the side of Spain. This is true in each case of the official as well as the

pular attitude. THE ORISIS VERY REAR.

United States Minister Woodford Preparing to Leave Madrid. Special Cable Despatches to Tan Sun.

MADRID, April 1.-The reply of the Spanish Government to the proposals of the United States is altogether unfavorable and amounts practically to a rejection of the American d mands. This statement is made upon official

Gen. Woodford, the United States Minister, is preparing to leave Madrid. LONDON, April 1.—The following despatch, re ceived from the correspondent of THE SUN in

"United States Minister Woodford has dens all in his power as a sincere friend of peace to secure a satisfactory agreement between Spain and the United States, but to-night [Thursday] matters have taken a serious turn."

Madrid, is based upon the highest authority:

The Times issued a second edition this mornng for the publication of a despatch from

Madrid, which says: "The substance of the Spanish proposal is that the insurgents and not the United States shall ask for an armistice, and that the Autonomist Cuban Cabinet shall deal with the proposal without the intervention or good offices of the

American Government." AWAITING M'KINLEY'S ARSWED, Madrid Expects That It Will Settle the Present

State of Affairs Positively. Special Cable Despatch to TRE SUR Madrid, April 1 .- President McKinley's answer to the decision of the Spanish Govern-ment cabled to Washington by Minister Woodford at 6 o'clock last evening is anxiously awaited and is expected to arrive late to-day. It is thought that the reply must settle the present state of affairs positively and immediately. Spain considers that her propositions are

favorable to peace. Madrid, April 1-11 P. M.-The despatch cont by United States Minister Woodford last night conveying to the American Government the reply of Spain to the demands made upon her has not yet been answered.

GREAT BRITAIN'S FRIENDSHIP. Significant Honor Paid to Ambassador May by

Royalties at a Leves. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUR. LONDON, April 1 .- European diplomacy often indicates an important political attitude by a social method. The entire Diplomatic Corpewas at yesterday's levee, and a significant interpretation was put upon an incident which the uninitiated observer might regard as of no

consequence. When Col. Hay, the United States Ambe dor, passed before the Duke of York and the ther royalties all of them advanced and core dially shook hands with him. The Spanish Mins ister immediately followed Col. Hay and was received with formal bows.

APPROVED BY THE QUEEN KEGEST. The Acts of the Council of Ministers Submitted to Her by Premier Sagasta.

Special Cubic Desputch to Tun Sus.

Maddid, April 1.—Premier Sagasta has submitted to the Queen Regent all of the acts of the council, and her Majesty has approved of them. The Queen Regent also expressed her satisfaction at the act of the Ministry in cabling to Captain-General Blanco credit for 3,000,000 esetas for the relief of the reconcentrados.

SPAIN MUST FIGHT ALONE, Promier Sagneta's Organ Admits That So European Power Will Help Her,

Madrid, April 1.—El Liberal says that Spain must trust solely to her own energies and reources. The paper is the organ of Sagasta, and its statement is doubtless inspired, the purpose ing to prepare the public for the knowledge that none of the European powers will in any way intervene in behalf of Spain.